

could be made. Jefferson felt his helplessness and on the day when his tenure of office should cease, it expired on June 1st, 1781, but the Assembly, then trying sessions at Charlottesville near Monticello, neglected to choose a successor, and for twelve days Virginia, was without a Governor. A party arose advocating a dictator for the crisis. To Jefferson, opposed with all his might. "The very thought declared, "was treason, against the people, was treason mankind in general." Whether Jefferson could have been elected for a third term or not is problematical. In the interim there was considerable muttering. One member charged the Governor with incompetency. Jefferson in the question of his re-election, by declining to serve. Through his influence his friend General Nelson, was chosen his successor. Supreme military power was conferred on Nelson, but he proved to be as powerless as Jefferson. Relief from the invader, and his dictatorial power only; to make him unpopular. In a few months he thrived in office in, disgust. There was no relief until Washington came down from the north.

The day after his term of office expired, Jefferson was at his home at Monticello by a body of raiders detached from Tarleton. The object of the visit was to carry away / as a rich prize of war, but a lucky circumstance befell the enterprise. Jefferson having been warned that the enemy was coming to Monticello, put his family into safe hands and secretly sent it away. He was perfectly cool in the midst of it. He lingered to save some of his cherished papers. After waiting as long as he thought prudent, he went to his blacksmith shop to get his horse, which he had ordered to be shod for a hard run. Before mounting he ascended the hill way, and at a favorite spot, with the aid of his telescope surveyed Charlottesville and the whole region round about. He could see no trace of an enemy. He listened, and there was stillness. Concluding that the alarm was false, he returned to his mansion and saved a few more papers. He had gone toward the house but a little way.